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NIPPON UNITS CROSS INDO-BURMA BORDER IN SOUTHERN SECTOR

Azad Hind Army Cooperating—30 Enemy Tanks Smashed With Hand-Grenades

By N. ONUMA and R. ENDO
Of the Military Press Corps

FOREMOST SOUTHERN INDO-BURMESE BORDER FRONT, May 8.—The Japanese Units which had been continuing their onrush after reducing Daletome, strategic key point on this front, occupied XX, a vital point along the border, at daybreak on May 5 in collaboration with the Indian National Army and crossed the Indo-Burmese frontier into Indian territory at XX yesterday, intercepting and crushing the enemy troops trying to flee into the Mawdok mountain ranges in utter disorder.

2 Raiders Blasted

Domei

UNDISCLOSED BASE IN BURMA, May 9.—Intercepting eight low-flying enemy P-38 fighters that appeared in the Melkutailar sector on May 7, Japanese Army Fighter Plane Units immediately shot down the commanding anti-Axis plane and put another aircraft out of action.

The rest of the enemy planes were forced to flee. In this aerial duel, one Japanese plane was self-blasted.

30 Tanks Destroyed
By J. NOGUCHI
Of the Military Press Corps

KOHIMA FRONT, May 6.—X X Unit, which had taken possession of the strategic town of Kohima has been successful in completely cutting the enemy retreat from doomed Imphal.

At the same time this particular Unit has been inflicting crushing blows upon enemy's reinforcements which have been persistently counter-attacking in an attempt to win back the Imphal-Dimapur Road.

The enemy has already suffered casualties amounting to 15,000. In spite of the heavy damages suffered the enemy continues to counter-attack, relying on its material power.

About 10:30 a.m. on May 4 the enemy attacked with planes and the raid lasted for an hour. Shortly afterward, an enemy force of 700 men, equipped with more than 30 tanks, attacked the Japanese position around Kohima.

The various Japanese units met the enemy resolutely. The Japanese troops, armed with hand-grenades, managed to near the group of tanks, carried out a daring attack and put all of them out of commission.

In the meantime, the units equipped with anti-tank guns, working in close collaboration, succeeded in disabling and setting afire 12 other medium and light tanks and two light armored cars.

The hand-grenade attack and the action of the anti-tank units struck terror into the enemy which had been putting up a desperate resistance in the vain hope of recapturing Kohima.

Enemy Batteries Pounded

The same day at 11 a.m. a formation of more than 40 Japanese planes appeared in the skies over Kohima and furiously attacked the enemy's main artillery positions and destroyed them.

The following day, that is May 5, the enemy which was anxious to retake Kohima, made a forced attack on our position with a spearhead of 17 tanks followed by a column of nearly 200 men.

The X X Unit permitted the enemy to come near when they suddenly closed in upon it, in just the sort of strategy in which the Japanese Army Forces are skilled.

They passed the foremost two tanks and attacked and smashed the three tanks that followed at one stroke setting them on fire. Then the Japanese turned to the first two tanks which by this time were in a hurry to retreat and set both of them aflame.

Thus they put out of commission a total of five enemy medium and light tanks.

Before the enemy had time to recover the Unit charged the enemy and caused it to flee in disorder. It counted 53 bodies left behind by the enemy. Its trophies included 15 automatic rifles, one machine-gun, a large number of rifles and a considerable quantity of ammunition.

This achievement of the Unit smashed completely the enemy's plan to retake Kohima.

Two White Pheasants Going to Be Offered To Manchou Emperor

Domei

HSINKING, May 8.—A pair of stuffed cock and hen white pheasants will be presented to His Majesty the Emperor of Manchoukuo as a fitting gift to felicitate the rise of the nation. The gift is indeed most fitting for white pheasants are among the most highly treasured of birds because they are traditionally regarded in the Orient as omens of prosperity to an empire. The pair of white pheasants was captured at Panhsih, Kirin Province, last autumn. Arrangements for the presentation, which will be made through Prime Minister Chang Ching-hui, have been already completed.

RED ARMY CHECKED NEAR SEBASTOPOL

Soviets Attempting to Force Decision; Germans Take Initiative East of Sereth

Special

BERLIN, May 8.—The Red Army's mass assault against Sebastopol is still in progess. In the past 24 hours, the Soviets employed very strong formations, but were met with tenacious resistance by German and Rumanian forces.

Without regard to their heavy losses, the Soviets are continuing their strong pressure against German positions and are trying to force a decision.

Meanwhile, the battle between the Pruth and Moldavia, especially near Targu-Frumos, has ended in a complete defensive victory for the Axis forces. In this regard, the following details were made known by authoritative quarters:

Resist Soviet Drive

"The German and Rumanian units were under the command of Infantry General Woehler. At the narrowest front, the Soviets tried with 20 infantry divisions and several tank divisions to enforce a break-through, but were met by fierce German-Rumanian resistance and strong counter-attacks.

"This operation cost the enemy 427 tanks, 103 guns and 100 airplanes. Special importance is attached to this victory by Berlin military circles because it has revealed the strong striking power of the German, Rumanian and Hungarian divisions.

"At the same time, the Germans have taken the initiative in the local fighting east of Sereth, and have succeeded in capturing a dominating height from the Soviets. On this occasion, the Germans destroyed 15 tanks as well as 41 guns and heavy anti-aircraft batteries of the Soviets and captured numerous prisoners."

Two changes have marked the beginning of the new week of the war in Europe. First, after the large-scale Soviet attacks between the Pruth and Moldavia and the lively fighting on the lower Dniester, activity on the Eastern Front has slackened, and second, the Anglo-American bombers in daylight raids are resorting to the cover of low-lying clouds, although a few weeks ago they believed that their terror activity over central and western Europe during the day could be carried out in clear weather, writes Martin Hallensleben, D.N.B. military correspondent.

Claims Losses Heavy

He adds that Berlin military circles are of the opinion that the present letup in the fighting activity on the Eastern Front is due to the extraordinary losses suffered by the enemy at points where he believed he was able to pierce the German positions with concentrated forces on a narrow front.

This German success, which is also a Rumanian and Hungarian success, has doubtless been achieved due to the new tactics employed in destroying enemy tanks, the correspondent points out.

He goes on to explain that the German arms specialized for this purpose, in particular the new type of battleplanes equipped with a new kind of anti-tank gun, have been surprisingly successful in inflicting losses on the enemy tank forces. The new tactics used by the Germans for the first time against this year's enemy spring actions will bear fruit especially in the future when the Soviet large-scale offensive or the German large-scale operations are started.

Symptomatic of the fighting efficiency of the Axis forces, the war scribe significantly points out, is the fact that German and Rumanian troops in defense battles between the Pruth and Moldavia succeeded in holding their own against 20 Soviet rifle divisions and several tank divisions and, moreover, in decimating the superior Soviet forces to such an extent that the Soviet command was forced to discontinue the battle.

Soviet Offensive Lively

This is more remarkable in view of the fact that German and Rumanian forces started counter-attacks while the battle was still raging. Only in the southwestern corner of the Crimea is there still lively Soviet offensive activity.

The Germans, furthermore, are still holding their own at Sebastopol. Here, too, the Soviet command seems to be surprised at the strength of the German and Rumanian resistance, which has not in the least been weakened by the events of the past months.

The correspondent adds that the air battle situation has likewise changed in the past few days. The Anglo-Americans owing to the heavy losses inflicted on them by the German air defenses have been forced to adopt new tactics in their daylight raids. Now they are seeking cover behind dense clouds in order to evade the Reich defenders.

GIANT SAVINGS MARK EXCEEDED BY NATION DURING 1943-44 YEAR

Goal Over-Topped by ¥3,988,000,000 Says Board of Information Communique

The national savings for the 1943-44 fiscal year exceeded the goal set for that period of ¥27,000,000,000 by some ¥3,988,000,000, or 14.7 per cent, it was announced by the Board of Information Tuesday.

The Finance Ministry had been carefully compiling data on the results of the national savings efforts during the fiscal year ending March 31. The returns showed that some ¥30,988,000,000 had been saved during that period, far exceeding the goal set for the fiscal year. Accordingly, Finance Minister Sotaro Ishiwata made a report on the matter at a regular session of the Cabinet Tuesday and the Board of Information issued a communique the same afternoon, as follows:

"The results of the national savings drive for the 1943-44 fiscal year were reported to the Cabinet Tuesday by the Finance Minister. The total is ¥30,988,000,000, which exceeds the goal set for the period by ¥3,988,000,000. The aggregate total of savings since 1937, when the China Affair broke out, up to March 31, 1944, therefore, exceeds ¥100,000,000,000."

Finance Minister Ishiwata issued a statement on the splendid showing as follows:

"That the actual savings far exceeded the goal for the 1943-44 fiscal year is a most salutary sign for the prosecution of the War of Greater East Asia. This superb showing is a crystallization of the sweat of the people's brows and the Government wishes to express its deep appreciation and admiration for the efforts made. As the goal set for the current fiscal year has still farther to go than that for the 1943-44 fiscal year, it is hoped that greater efforts than ever will be made for its successful attainment."

National Savings in 1943-44 Fiscal Year
(In ¥1,000,000)

Postal Savings	5,876
Postal Insurance Reserves	634
Postal Annuities	413
Labor Annuities, Seamen's Insurance Reserves	234
Bank Deposits	11,009
Credit Union Savings	4,452
Money in Trust	774
Insurance Company Funds	1,418
Mutual Financing Company Funds	279
Total	25,089
Direct Investments in Negotiable Bonds, etc.	5,899
Grand Total	30,988

(Note. Some of the figures above are subject to change as they are based on estimates.)

The results of the increase in national savings since the outbreak of the China Affair totalled ¥103,845,000,000, as announced by the Board of Information Tuesday. Details follow:

Year	Goal (In million yen)	Actual results (In million yen)	Pct.
1937 (after July)	—	3,028	—
1938	8,000	7,333	91.66
1939	10,000	10,202	102.02
1940	12,000	12,817	106.81
1941	17,000	16,020	94.24
1942	23,000	23,457	101.99
1943	27,000	30,988	114.77
Total since 1938	97,000	100,817	103.94
Grand total	—	103,845	—

Naval Rites for Fleet-Admiral Koga To Be Held Friday at Tsukiji Temple

Admiral Viscount Takayoshi Kato Named Chairman Of Services at Nishi-Honganji; Late Fleet Head Honored by Manchoukuo and China

The Navy funeral for the late Fleet-Admiral Mineichi Koga, Commander-in-Chief of the Combined Fleet who returned triumphantly in silence, to Tokyo Sunday, will be held at the Nishi-Honganji Temple at Tsukiji at 1 p.m. on Friday, it was announced by the Navy Ministry at 3 p.m. on Tuesday.

Admiral Viscount Takayoshi Kato, a Supreme War Councillor, will be the chairman of the funeral committee, the same announcement said.

The Navy Ministry's announcement follows:

"The Navy funeral for the late Fleet-Admiral Mineichi Koga will be held at the Nishi-Honganji Temple at Tsukiji, Tokyo, from 1 p.m. on May 12.

"The chairman of the funeral committee will be Admiral Viscount Takayoshi Kato."

Following the Navy funeral, farewell rites will be held at the same temple for the general public between 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. on the same day.

Late Admiral Honored

Domei

HSINKING, May 9.—His Majesty the Emperor of Manchoukuo was pleased to present under date of May 5 the First Class Order of the Lung Kuang with the Grand Cordon to the late Fleet-Admiral Mineichi Koga in honor of his distinguished services.

Domei

NANKING, May 9.—The National Government of China as expression of its profound regret has decided to present the Special Class Order of the Tung Kuang to the late Fleet-Admiral Mineichi Koga, Commander-in-Chief of the Imperial Combined Fleet who heroically died at his post, it was made public Monday.

Condolence From Rangoon

Domei

RANGOON, May 9.—The gallant death on the front of Fleet-Admiral Mineichi Koga, Commander-in-Chief of the Japanese Combined Fleet, is deeply regretted in Burma by all the Burmese.

Representing the Burmese nation, Burmese Foreign Minister Thakin Nu last Sunday sent the following telegram of condolence to Japanese Foreign Minister Mamoru Shigemitsu:

"On behalf of the Burmese Government and also the Burmese nation, I wish to express my profound regrets for the heroic death of Fleet-Admiral Mineichi Koga, Commander-in-Chief of the Japanese Combined Fleet. Following in the footsteps of the late Fleet-Admiral Koga, we will do our utmost to gain the final victory in the present war.

"Fleet-Admiral Koga's heroic end in the South has certainly heightened our determination to smash our common enemies. His death is indeed a moral victory. We avail ourselves of this opportunity of renewing our determination."

BREAK IS FORESEEN IN INDIAN CONGRESS

Offensive Manner in Which Gandhi Was Released Condemned by U.S. Press

Special

LISBON, May 8.—American newspapers are attacking the manner in which the British authorities have released Mahatma Gandhi from prison, according to dispatches received here.

The New York newspaper PM in an editorial "When Gandhi Goes" said that the American officials in touch with East Asiatic affairs were disgusted at the churlish manner in which Mahatma Gandhi was released from prison. They said that the Mahatma might have been freed as an act of imperial magnanimity and the Indian Government would then have won the respect of the Indian masses and the world. But the India Office in London seemed intent on making the release in the most offensive manner possible. "A priggish three-sentence communique announced his release," the paper declared.

The journal stated that the Indian National Congress was likely to fall apart if Gandhi dies and that although an outbreak of factional squabbling might make it easier for the traditional British "divide and rule" policy, it would make it harder to find a leader with whom the British could negotiate and who would make India a loyal member of the "United Nations."

The paper went on to point out that "our political stupidity is slowly forcing India to feel it can find salvation only in the sword. And the sword in the hands of 400,000,000 people will indeed be a problem."

The Washington Evening Star writes that "so strict has been the British censorship on Indian affairs that we know relatively little of what is going on in that vast peninsula with its intricate jumble of races, castes and creeds. Therefore, it is hard to evaluate either the background of the Government's decision or the political effects. Mahatma Gandhi's future actions cannot be predicted but if the medical diagnosis of his health is correct, chances are that he is too sick and worn out to do much in a positive sense."

The paper warned, however, that the Mahatma, if alive, would remain a symbol for the Indian National Congress with its program of Indian nationalism and the native unrest will continue at least until the end of the war.

BERLIN DEFENDERS BAG 76 ATTACKERS

14 Enemy Planes Destroyed Over Bucharest by Reich and Rumanian Forces

Domei

BERLIN, May 8.—German forces shot down 76 American bombers in their terror raid against this city yesterday and Reich military quarters believed that the enemy losses will further increase when complete reports are made available.

Meanwhile, at least 14 enemy planes were shot down by German and Rumanian air defense forces when Anglo-American bomber formations at daylight yesterday and last night directed terror attacks on Bucharest inflicting some damage and casualties.

A Bucharest report quoting the Rumanian war communique issued yesterday, stated that during the night of May 6 as well as in the course of the day Bucharest was bombed by Anglo-American planes destroying hospitals, schools and numerous residential houses while casualties were suffered by the people.

Enemy Raids Costly

Special

LISBON, May 8.—Anglo-American air raids on the European cities and towns are not victories for the anti-Axis nor are they forerunners to the oft-announced but not yet begun invasion, writes the Informaciones in a commentary, according to a Madrid report.

According to the journal, the Anglo-American air arm in April of this year lost 11,670 airmen, 5,050 planes, and 550,000,000 working hours which compared with the damage caused is exceedingly a high price to pay for their raids.

Praises Japanese Airmen

Special

LISBON, May 7.—U.S. Flight Lieutenant Kepford, reputedly one of the most successful American aviators, told the press today that Japanese airmen are excellent fighters and stressed that they maneuver their planes so cleverly that the slightest mistake made by an American airman might result in the death of the latter, according to a New York report.

Arab Politicians Meeting

Special

LISBON, May 7.—Negotiations are taking place in Palestine between Arab politicians to prepare for a political conference next month, according to an Adana dispatch, adding that this meeting is to be based on national and not party principles.

CAMPAIGN IN HONAN IS AT PEAK; RETREAT OF ENEMIES CUT OFF

General Tang's Forces Driven Into Mountain Regions South Of Sungshan

By D. UNNO, K. ASHIHARA and S. SHINOHARA
Of the Military Press Corps

HONAN FRONT, May 8.—The Honan campaign has now reached its peak with the enemy forces under General Tang En-po driven into the mountain regions south of Sungshan, five kilometers north of Tengfeng. Since early morning of May 5, the Japanese Ground and Air Forces are engaged in annihilative operations against the stampeded foe.

Bringing heavy pressure on the enemy 13th Army Corps, Japanese Units have advanced swiftly toward the southwest, while in another sector, the Imperial Forces are advancing north and northwestward in pursuit of the fleeing enemy 29th Army Corps.

Powerful Japanese Mobile Units, composed of tank and cavalry corps that had broken through the strongest section of the enemy line have suddenly turned northward and completely cut off the retreat route of the beaten foe.

Thus, the Japanese Units have succeeded in forming a great encirclement ring around the enemy in the steep Funiu mountain range and the steel net is being gradually tightened. The 13th Army Corps, which forms the main body of General Tang's army as well as the 85th, 29th Army Corps and reinforcement units, totalling 10 divisions, of over 80,000 troops, are now being subjected to heavy attacks.

Other Japanese Forces moving to sever the escape route toward the south of the enemy 81st Division of the 16th Army Corps and the newly-organized 43rd Division of the 78th Army Corps, sent out strong units of spearhead troops which, advancing swiftly, occupied a key position defended by the temporarily-organized 55th Division.

Meanwhile, Imperial Army Air Units, in concert with action of the Japanese Ground Units have been carrying out bombing and strafing attacks against the enemy who are now reported to be in utter confusion.

Loyang's Fate Sealed

Domei

LISBON, May 8.—A Reuter correspondent in Chungking today reports that Loyang's fate has been sealed and its fall is only a matter of time, adding that the engagements between the Japanese Forces and Chungking troops are continuing within 15 kilometers in the south of the city.

Meanwhile, an Associated Press correspondent in his field dispatch, states that the Japanese have advanced five kilometers farther and are only nine kilometers from Loyang at the moment.

Chungking military authorities are reported by Reuter to have issued the following communique regarding the war situation along the Peking-Hankow Railway:

"The Japanese Forces driving southward along the Peking-Hankow Railway have occupied Siping and are advancing toward Suiping, 45 kilometers south of Yencheng."

15 Kilometers to Loyang

Domei

LISBON, May 7.—Japanese Forces operating along the 50-kilometer front in North Honan Province have broken through the Chungking defense line and are now within 15 kilometers of Loyang, the Chungking Military Committee announced on May 6 in its official report, according to Chungking reports.

Imperial Forces Advancing
By T. ITO and Y. SUGITA
Of the Military Press Corps

HONAN FRONT, May 8.—Crack Japanese Units that smashed the enemy in the Fanshui district and in pursuing the fleeing enemy troops westward occupied Hulaokwan, are still advancing.

The enemy forces in the area consist of about 20,000 men, including 6,000 of the 177th Division of the 96th Army Corps, about 13,000 of the Reserve 11th Division of the temporarily-formed 15th Army Corps, and others. They formed strong positions by utilizing the mountainous terrain but the Japanese Forces are smashing their positions one by one.

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8 U.S. Planes Downed By Nippon Fighters In Hankow District

Domei

CONTINENTAL BASE, May 9.—Japanese Fighter Plane Units downed eight enemy planes, including three P-38's and five P-40's and F-51's, and damaged one P-38 and one P-51 at 2:20 p.m. on May 6 over Hsinti, northeast of Yochow, when a big formation of 40 planes of the United States air force in China appeared in the Hankow sector. While fleeing in confusion, the rest of the raiders carried out a blind bombing along the Yangtze River.

JAPANESE ADVANCE MENACING LOYANG

Arrive Outside Strategic Point On Lung-Hai Railway—Chungking Betrays Anxiety

Domei

LISBON, May 7.—Loyang, capital of Honan Province and one of the most strategic points on the Lung-Hai Railway, is now exposed to acute menace from the swift-advancing Japanese, according to a dispatch filed by Gunther Stein, Chungking correspondent of the Christian Science Monitor.

At the time that the Japanese Forces began their operations on the Honan border, the Chungking spokesman tended to slight the significance of the campaign as merely one intended to restrain the anti-Axis forces but with the Japanese advancing at a wholly unexpected pace southward on the Peking-Hankow Railway and westward on the Lung-Hai Railway, Chungking leaders have come to betray grave anxiety and even panic, it is reported. Describing the atmosphere prevailing at Chungking, Stein reported today:

"Among Chungking officials and foreigners here the view has gained ground that both the strategic and political situations must be subjected to serious re-examination, because the Japanese advance has been far more rapid than it had been expected. The Chungking forces in the First War District are comparatively well-equipped and well-trained and the defense of Loyang and environs is reputed to be quite strong.

Japanese Advance Further

"In the light of the developments of the last two days, it is clear that the Japanese had further advanced westward and come to offer serious strategic menace to the Chungking positions. Breaking through the hilly positions infinitely more favorable for defenders than the flat and almost treeless country along the Lung-Hai Railway toward Loyang, Honan's provincial capital, the Japanese might launch an extended westward campaign with Sian as the object, not merely to cover the perpendicular campaign along the Peking-Hankow Railway.

"Sian is one of Chungking China's most important cities and terminus of the Soviet-Chinese highway. At the same time, the Japanese might be intending to develop a Hunan campaign. It is utterly uncertain what the Japanese plans are. Whatever they are, the lesson of the Honan campaign is that the Chungking regime must carry out economic and political reforms and form a coalition with the Chinese Communist Army."

The correspondents of Reuters and Associated Press have filed similar reports. Judging from their tone, they are keenly cognizant of the crisis confronting Loyang and are astonished at the unexpected importance of the present campaign. They are utterly in the dark, however, as to what the Japanese objective is. As regards the reorganization of the Chungking regime, public opinion in the United States and Britain has been vehemently demanding it and the Chungking spokesman is reported to have stated that the coming session of the Central Executive Council will deliberate on the matter. Concerning relations between the Kuomintang and the Chinese Communist Party, Wang Shih-chieh, Chungking representative, and Lin Tsu-han, Yenan representative, are holding conversations, the nature of which has not yet been disclosed to foreign correspondents.

The spokesman of the Chungking regime, a report from Chungking said, in a press conference on May 5 stated that the Japanese Force advancing westward had arrived outside Loyang on the Lung-Hai Railway.

NIPPON UNITS BLAST 716 ENEMY PLANES IN ASIA WAR ZONES

Imperial Headquarters Reveals April Results Obtained by Army, Navy

A total of 716 enemy planes were shot down and damaged or set ablaze, including 43 probables, by the Imperial Japanese Army and Navy Forces in April in their offensive and intercepting operations against the anti-Axis air forces in the wide war theater embracing the South, Central, North Pacific, Burma and China areas, the Imperial Headquarters announced at 3 p.m. on Tuesday.

In the same period, the Japanese losses were 175 planes, including 90 which self-blasted or which failed to return and 85 planes that were damaged on the ground, the same communique disclosed.

The communique follows:

IMPERIAL HEADQUARTERS' COMMUNIQUE
3 p.m., May 9

"The composite war results obtained by Imperial Japanese Army and Navy Forces during April in their offensive and intercepting operations against the enemy air forces follow:

"1. Losses inflicted on the enemy:

South Pacific area:	
Shot down	232 planes (of which 12 unconfirmed)
Damaged	101 planes
Central Pacific area:	
Shot down	147 planes (of which 6 unconfirmed)
Damaged	54 planes
Burma area:	
Shot down	74 planes (of which 25 unconfirmed)
Damaged or set ablaze	66 planes
China area:	
Shot down	20 planes
Damaged or set ablaze	20 planes
North Pacific area:	
Shot down	1 plane
Damaged	1 plane
Total	716 planes (of which 43 unconfirmed)

"2. Losses on our side:

Self-blasted or not yet returned	90 planes
Damaged on the ground	85 planes
Total	175 planes."

Foe's Torpedo Boat Sunk
Special to the Nippon Times

RABAUL, May 9.—Discovering a group of enemy torpedo boats in the waters off Shortland Island at midnight of May 6, Japanese Units stationed on the island and a fleet of vessels promptly contacted them and, after engaging in furious attacks, sank a torpedo boat and repulsed two others. The Japanese sustained no damage.

Raid on Kavieng Failed
Special to the Nippon Times

RABAUL, May 9.—A total of 44 enemy planes, consisting of bombers and fighters, attempted to attack Kavieng on New Ireland Island on May 4 when Japanese Forces there, in their vigorous intercepting operation, shot down two of them and damaged four others. All the remaining invaders fled in confusion. Damage on our side was extremely slight.

Enemy Plane Downed
Special to the Nippon Times

CENTRAL PACIFIC BASE, May 9.—Japanese Units on Ponape Island downed an enemy plane out of about 30, including B-24's, that attempted an abortive raid on the island last Friday.

Five Machines Blasted
Special to the Nippon Times

SOUTHWESTERN PACIFIC BASE, May 9.—In their unsuccessful attack on Wiak Island on the mornings of May 4 and 5, the enemy air force lost five planes.

On the morning of May 4, enemy B-24 bombers came attacking the island. The Japanese quickly gave battle in which they downed an enemy invader. No damage was suffered on our part.

On the morning of the next day, another formation of 20 B-24's tried to attack the same island. In the ensuing aerial combat, the Japanese shot down a bomber and heavily damaged three others.

Wiak Island is situated at the mouth of the Bay of Geelvink, northwest of New Guinea Island.

Foe Planes Beaten Off
Special to the Nippon Times

RABAUL, May 9.—Japanese Units here shot down two enemy planes in an engagement with a formation of about 130 aircraft, composed of

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Press Comments

Tuesday, May 9

EDEN AND SECOND FRONT ISSUE

MAINICHI—Has there ever been an instance in the world's history of wars anything resembling the Second Front issue which has been carried over to the present moment from January, 1942? According to American calculations, the Anglo-Americans must be prepared to spend $100,000,000,000 and sacrifice 500,000 in killed and wounded. It is quite a big affair, but from the very beginning question marks have adhered to the issue and have never left it—When? Where? and even as to whether it will be carried out at all.

The affair recently took on an added strangeness. When Edward R. Settinius, Jr., U.S. Undersecretary of State, went to London for the Anglo-American conversations, Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden, the person most directly concerned, disappeared. It was said that he had gone to Moscow to seek Soviet understanding in regard to the Second Front issue. This secret was said to have been betrayed by the British consul at Barcelona. This is probably true. For, where else could Eden have gone during the Anglo-American conference except to Moscow?

Press dispatches reported that Eden asked Premier Stalin for more time in which to develop the Second Front and that Premier Stalin flatly refused. We do not, of course, know how true this story is. Nor are we interested in any conversation that may have taken place between them. At any rate, viewed objectively, the United States and Britain have no chance of success. The whole world knows what preparations Germany has made to deal with an attempted landing operation. It is also common knowledge that the United States and Britain, under the German menace, have become extremely nervous. Under these circumstances, it is quite possible that Eden did make the sort of representation rumored.

GREW'S APPOINTMENT AND DECEIVED CHUNGKING

TOKYO SHIMBUN—Joseph Grew has been appointed chief of the Division of Far Eastern Affairs in the U.S. State Department. His qualification is, of course, the fact that he had served as Ambassador to Tokyo for such a long time—the longest any American envoy ever resided in the Japanese capital.

On account of this fact, he has professed a thorough knowledge of Japanese affairs, and ever since his return to America he has aired his views about Japan and the Japanese—to the puzzlement of his countrymen. The simple minded Americans appear to be believing everything he tells them merely on the strength of his long stay in Tokyo. It is not strange, therefore, that he should have been appointed chief of the Far Eastern Division of the State Department.

One thing which Grew has often claimed is that he has many "friends" in Japan. But by these "friends" of his, he means the men here that he believes he has deceived. Among many diplomats of the world, there has never been a more deceitful and unscrupulous rascal. The official papers he had submitted to Washington were published one after another after the outbreak of the War of Greater East Asia. Any person comparing the contents of those papers with his avowals while in Tokyo must have been struck speechless with amazement.

He is a typical Machiavellian, nay, an international swindler. One can imagine just what sort of chief of the Far Eastern Division he will make, and to the shaping of what sort of Asia policy he will contribute.

Learning that the important points on the Peking-Hankow Railway have fallen one after another and that Loyang, a strategic town only 900 kilometers from Chungking, is now in peril, the United States Government and people are said to have realized, as if for the first time, the utter powerlessness of the Chungking regime. As the magazine Life points out, however, what has made Chungking so powerless, is the United States herself. She has flattered Chungking with the naive allusion to it as one of the Big Four, or raised its hopes sky-high with promises of loans and supplies. But these have merely been devices to keep Chungking in its place as the main butt in the war against Japan.

The Chungking envoy, Wei Taoming, upon his arrival in Washington, immediately put in an appeal to the State Department regarding the pitiable state of the regime, saying that the misery suffered by the people in Chiang-controlled areas is the most terrible ever seen since the outbreak of the China Affair. The supply of provisions to officers and men is daily dwindling. The United States authorities are said to have lent scant heed to the appeal, but have even showered him with cold abuse.

What new methods of deceit must be in store with the crafty Grew in the saddle at the head of the Far Eastern Division! If Chungking, fully knowing the sort of party it is dealing with, still is willing to share its fate, it must be said to have forfeited its so-called "freedom from swindle."

BRITISH EMPIRE CONFERENCE

YOMIURI-HOCHI—On the opening of the British Empire Conference, the spokesman made a very interesting statement. He said that the British Government did not want to force its opinion on the Dominions, nor has it any intention of making them unite in one body to oppose other nations. In short, what the spokesman meant to say was that the parley was being held merely for an exchange of views.

It is obvious that the spokesman tried to do his best to distract the attention of foreign nations from the conference, and also attempted to clarify the point that it had no connection whatever with these countries.

The traditional policy of Britain is to call an Empire conference whenever she is confronted with a political crisis so as to strengthen her Empire policy. The meeting at Ottawa in 1932, and the parley at London in 1937 were held for the same objective. The current Empire Conference in London is no exception.

In 1932, it was the important and urgent problem of Britain to utilize the preference system in relation with the Dominions in the trade war against certain capitalistic nations, especially the United States, because of the economic panic prevailing in the world at that time. In 1937 the vital problem for Britain was her military plan for the execution of her imperialistic policy in East Asia and Europe.

However, the objective of the present Empire Conference is far more complicated and important than those mentioned above. The current war has already caused the general exhaustion of Britain who has been thrown into further grave difficulties by the sudden changes in the international situation. As a result, Britain has been forced to relinquish various rights and interests to the United States in payment for the aid given to her under the Lend-Lease program.

Thus, Britain has been forced to fight two wars—one against the Axis in the military field and the other against the United States in the economic sphere. And for her defense against the United States, Britain requires the full support of the Dominions.

Contrary to the statement made by the spokesman of the conference, the British Government is actually demanding at the meeting that the Dominions unite as one body against the United States. Because of this, the American Economic and Banking Inquiry Commission, at its meeting in Washington, adopted a recommendation on May 6 to the effect that it is necessary for the nations of the American Continent to unite and form an economic and trading bloc of the Western Hemisphere in opposition to the preferential tariff system of the British Empire. Therefore, there exists a serious confrontation between Britain and the United States.

Britain's attempt to align the Dominions against the United States, however, may result in the disintegration of the British Empire instead of its consolidation, because the status of the Dominions will be raised higher as the British Government's demands for their full support are increased. This was seen during the time of the first World War when the mutual relations between the Dominions and their motherland changed due to their positive participation in the conflict. The aid given by the Dominions forced the British Government to recognize the perfect equality between it and the Dominions.

The big demands for support made by the British Government to the Dominions in the present war can only result in the Dominions making further demands to their motherland. The serious crisis of an internal breakdown of the British Empire looms.

Seek MacArthur's Candidacy

Special

LISBON, May 8.—That General Douglas MacArthur, Commander-in-Chief of the Anti-Axis Forces in Southwestern Pacific, may still run for U.S. President was implied today by MacArthur national associates who announced that its organization would continue to advocate the nomination of MacArthur for presidency despite his statement not to be a candidate, according to a New York dispatch. Ormsby McHard, chairman of the organization said that "we feel if enough people want him nominated, he will be nominated and that under those circumstances MacArthur will recognize it as his duty to the nation to accept the candidacy."

U.S. NAVY ADMITS LOSSES IN PACIFIC

Admiral King in Belated Report Confesses Blunders Off Sabo And Guadalcanal

The United States has confessed that serious blunders were committed off Sabo and Guadalcanal Islands, says a Stockholm dispatch to the Yomiuri-Hochi.

With regard to warships losses in the Pacific theater of war, it has been customary for the United States naval authorities to publish it either in peacemeal fashion or to hide it entirely. However, Admiral Ernest J. King, Commander-in-Chief of the United States Combined Fleet, recently, and for the first time, published the list of the U.S. war vessels lost in various sea battles in the Southwestern Pacific, the gist of which follows:

1. Sea Battle in Sunda Straits

"On February 28, 1942, three warships, the British cruiser Exeter (8,390 tons), the American destroyer Pope (1,190 tons) and the British destroyer Encounter (1,375 tons) were lost while navigating in the direction of Sunda Straits.

"On March 1 of the same year, three other warships, the American cruiser Houston (9,050 tons), the Australian cruiser Pearse and the Dutch destroyer Evatsen (1,310 tons) were reported missing after the sea battle.

1. Sea Battle Off Sabo Islands.

"Having had no experience in actual sea battle, we sustained great damages in the sea battle of August 8, and were obliged to leave the American marines, who had landed on Guadalcanal Island, in a very perilous situation. As a matter of fact, in the sea battle off Sabo Island, we lost four cruisers, namely, the American cruisers Vincennes, Astoria and Quincy, all of 9,950-ton class, and the British cruiser Canberra (9,850 tons). Besides these, the American cruiser Chicago (9-050 tons) and the American destroyers Ralph Talbot and Patterson, each 1,500 tons, also sustained damages.

"Rear-Admiral Crachley, commander of the British Fleet, aboard the British cruiser Canberra was absent in this sea battle as he was then attending a military conference being held aboard the flagship of the convoys."

With the enemy losing four cruisers in the above battle and also two aircraft-carriers in another sea battle in the same waters, Rear-Admiral Richmond Kelly Tanner stated, "For several months past we have been obliged to be inferior to the Japanese Fleet."

1. Sea Battle Off Santa Cruz

"On October 26, American marines on Guadalcanal Islands were hard pressed by the Japanese forces. In the sea battle fought on October 26, the United States navy lost the aircraft carrier Hornet, while another American aircraft carrier Enterprise (19,900 tons) was badly damaged. The destroyer Porter (1,850 tons) was also sunk, and the newly-built battleship South Dakota (35,000 tons) suffered damages with its captain receiving injuries. In addition to these, the cruiser San Juan was also badly damaged. On the other hand, we were unable to sink even a single Japanese warship.

1. Sea Battle off Guadalcanal Islands

"This sea battle was fought on November 13 and 14. During the first 15 minutes after the opening of the battle, the United States destroyer Cassin (1,500 tons) left the fighting line. Then the Rafay was sunk, and two destroyers Sterett (1,500 tons) and Ovannoun were damaged. Another destroyer, Atlanta went up in flames. The American cruisers, San Francisco (9,950 tons) and Portland (9,800 tons) were badly damaged, being riddled with big holes The warship Juneau later, left the fighting line, and the Parial went up in flames. The cruiser Helena (10,000 tons) also sustained damages, and only three warships, the Aaron Ward, Monsen and Fletcher escaped damages."

It should be noted here that soon after the above battle, the Monsen was damaged, and the Sterett was put out of commission. And still later, the four warships, the Morsen, the Cassin, the Atlanta and the Juneau were all sent to the bottom of the sea.

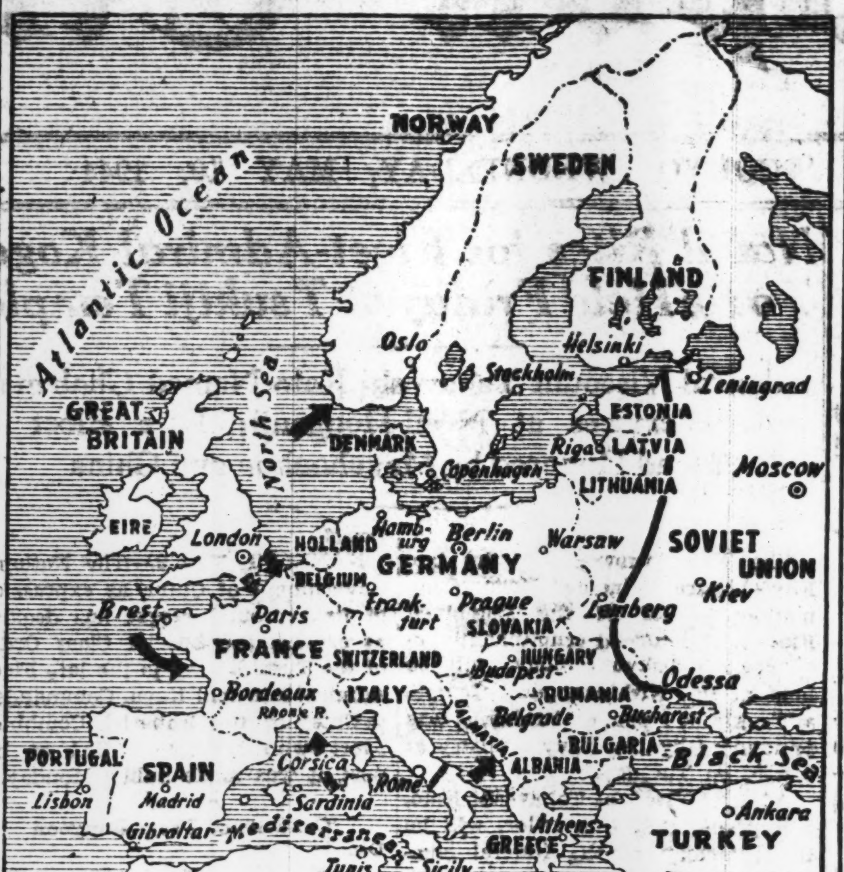
Nippon Units Blast 716 Enemy Planes In Asia War Zones

(Continued From Page 1)

bombers and fighters, on May 4.

Another formation of about 90 enemy bombers and fighters tried to attack our position on the following day when the Japanese Forces downed two enemy raiders and damaged two others. All the rest of the enemy planes were beaten off. Only negligible damage was reported on our side in the first engagement.

Reich Ready to Deal Death Blow To Any Enemy Invasion Attempt



The above map shows all the points on the European continent from Norway down to the south coast of France and round to the Mediterranean to the Balkans which may be used by the Anglo-American forces in a landing attempt.

(Continued From Yesterday)

Stockholm (Kogo):

The British action of restricting the activities of the neutral diplomats in Britain on the pretext that the second front is about to be launched is quite interesting to say the least. Newspapers have been loudly proclaiming to the world that these measures are direct preparations for the second front, but I hold an entirely different opinion. I think that Britain has taken such action for fear that the real strategical secrets regarding the second front may leak out to the Axis side through the neutral countries.

Berlin (Kato):

Tell us what you know of the latest situation concerning Anglo-American military preparations.

Stockholm (Kogo):

1,000,000 Men Needed

The enemy camp, estimating the German army under the command of Marshal Gert von Rundstedt to be from 500,000 to 750,000 strong, says that at least 1,000,000 men would be needed to invade western Europe. Toward January of this year, the United States and Britain drew up a plan of massing the combined American and British forces of 80 to 100 divisions in the British Isles.

Berlin (Kato):

A reliable source in Berlin places the British strength at 30 divisions, the United States from 28 to 30 divisions, and five mixed divisions of the Canadian army, the exile Polish army and the mixed army, totalling 63 to 65 divisions in all. The same source believes that five of these divisions are air-transport units.

Zurich (Wakayama):

The biggest problem facing the anti-Axis forces was the lack of landing barges, but this question seems to have been settled of late. The United States drew up a plan for the construction of 80,000 landing barges of 15 different types, They say that out of this number they completed 25,000 by last November, and have since then built 40,000.

Berlin (Yamamoto):

Looking at the situation from the standpoint of transportation facilities, the mere mobilization of landing barges and transports would not suffice for any large-scale operation. The question hinges on the preparations the enemy has made in the way of bottoms required for the replenishment of arms and supplies after the landing.

It is said that even in the Italian campaign, the enemy required 1,000,000 tons of shipping in order to transport ten divisions.

Berlin (Kato):

Judging from the way the enemy has massed its troops it would be reasonable to presume that the enemy will concentrate on northern France and the coasts of Belgium and the Netherlands as the main theaters of war, with northern Germany, the coast of Norway, southern France and the Balkans as secondary landing points. There are growing indications that the enemy will dispatch powerful forces to southern France and the Balkans in order to draw the German forces. Some observers are inclined to believe that the anti-Axis forces will also utilize the Iberian Peninsula for the same purpose.

Lisbon (Sakura):

N. France Likely

Just as Churchill intimated, the enemy may attempt a landing at several places at once but their main strength will probably attack northern France and the coasts of Belgium and the Netherlands or western France close to the Pyrenees and the southern French coast. Northern France and the coasts along the Low Countries, have been heavily fortified whereas southern France has no formidable fortifications as the former. For this reason, the enemy may try a landing on the southern French coast in the hope of minimizing their losses and isolate the Iberian Peninsula, possibly establishing air bases there. They may, on the other hand, decide to wage guerrilla warfare in France.

Berlin (Oshima):

I am convinced that the enemy, in order to restrain the German army, will utilize the Jugoslavian regime headed by "Tito" Brozovich and the Badoglio regime, with its headquarters in South Italy. The de Gaullist army would also choose southern France.

If the enemy should find it difficult to carry out a frontal attack, he may encroach upon Spain. Then again, the enemy may invade Turkey, forcing the latter to rise in arms.

Paris (Takata):

About two weeks ago, the United States and Britain sent a large number of troops and arms to southern Italy but I think that this was done merely to restrain the German forces. Some observers here seriously believe that the enemy may attempt a landing near Genoa in northern Italy.

Stockholm (Kogo):

To facilitate invasion the enemy first of all will attempt to destroy the rear supply lines of the German army by using their air forces. Prior to the landing, the enemy fighters and bombers will no doubt focuss their attacks on the first-line German forces to make up for the shortage of troops after the landing but as was proved on the Italian front, air-raids on formidable fortifications have very little effect.

Huge Losses Expected

Zurich (Wakayama):

The United States and Britain estimate their losses at about 500,000 men at the outset of the invasion. This is based on the fact that the anti-Axis troops will be forced to abandon many of the points attacked at the beginning of the operations.

Lisbon (Sakura):

The landing barges constructed by the enemy are so fragile they will easily capsize in bad weather. Consequently ideal weather is an important factor.

Berlin (Oshima):

I believe that many new weapons, which have been steadily improved during the past five years of war, will be utilized in the coming invasion. A glance at the various German weapons of war such as aircraft, tanks, guns and numerous scientific arms immediately suggests that in the coming battle between the opposing forces, the achievements of modern man will be clearly revealed.

Stockholm (Kogo):

However, there seems to be no change in the fighting fundamentals. According to the American magazine Time, American infantrymen, who have hitherto been relegated to the background, have now come to enjoy a very important position in the Pacific operations as well as on the Cassino front. The American military authorities conclude that infantrymen are absolutely necessary in order to put the finishing touches to the present war. For this reason, they have raised the wages of the infantry and also transferred coastal artillery men and personnel from the airforces and other classes of troops to the infantry.

Berlin (Kato):

Mr. Takata, I understand that you have recently inspected the French coast. Please tell us your impression of the German defenses.

Forts Surpass Maginot

Paris (Takata):

Through my recent inspection, I could readily understand why the United States and Britain have not yet attempted the invasion of the continent. During the past year, the Germans have apparently expended a tremendous amount of labor and material for the construction of fortifications and I have found them to be far superior to the Maginot line in more ways than one. I was not only surprised at the tremendous amount of work involved in the construction of the fortifications but I became convinced that the German army is firmly resolved to frustrate any attempt on the part of the enemy to land on the French coast. In order to insure the security of Germany, it is absolutely imperative to defend France.

Berlin (Oshima):

I have heard that the fortifications along the Atlantic coast leave nothing to be desired. The coast is said to be guarded by patrol boats, speedboats, submarines and minesweepers as the first line and with a network of mines behind them, forming the second line of defense. Should the enemy attempt a landing under cover of darkness, huge siege guns, land torpedo-tubes and heavy-caliber anti-tank guns will direct withering fire.

The few enemy units which may slip through this cordon are sure to be dealt annihilative blows by the German batteries. When the enemy attempted a thrust on Dieppe on the Channel coast in the summer of 1942, there was only one line of defense along the coast but now the entire coastal area is buttressed with an intricate network of underground and surface pill boxes and forts.

Immune to Gun-Fire

These mighty fortifications are impregnable against enemy gun-fire and air-raids. Field Marshal Erwin Rommel, who inspected the fortified areas recently, returned to his headquarters beaming with satisfaction. This clearly indicates the perfection of the German defense as well as the high morale prevailing among the entire German forces.

Berlin (Kato):

In the event of invasion could you give us a comparison of the strategy that will be employed by the German army and the Anglo-American forces?

Stockholm (Kogo):

A recent issue of the American magazine, Time, says that Germany has already completed preparations for a "flooding operation" along the coast of Netherlands. Granting that 500,000 enemy troops succeed in establishing bridgeheads, they should bear in mind that 600,000 crack German soldiers are waiting to crush them. Therefore, if the United States and Britain should commit a blunder in carrying out their strategy, they will play right into German hands.

Berlin (Kato):

If the enemy succeeds in landing, what effect would it have on the Iberian Peninsula, Turkey and various north European countries?

Lisbon (Sakura):

The progress of the enemy invasion, if it occurs, would influence the Iberian Peninsula but the mere establishment of bridgeheads by the enemy would have no effect. However, if the Iberian Peninsula should be cut off from Germany, it will be greatly affected because it will then have to depend on the United States and Britain.

Budapest (Yenomoto):

Turkish Stand Neutral

In regard to Turkey's attitude, it is a well-known fact that it will remain strictly neutral. It is presumed that United States and Britain demanded Turkey to sever economic relations with Germany with the sinister design of invading Turkey and dragging it into the war in the event of Turkish refusal.

Berlin (Kato):

The unanimous opinion of our correspondents is that if the enemy should attempt an invasion, they will concentrate their attacks on the coasts of France, Belgium and the Netherlands, making the Channel the main theater of war and also various other places to draw the German forces.

Paris (Takata):

If the United States and Britain are unable to carry out their landing operations in May, when would they dare to attempt it? The weather during May is the most ideal for landing and if this period is permitted to slip by the enemy will be forced to wait until August. It is mainly due to political rather than strategic reasons that the May landing is generally denied.

Berlin (Kato):

At any rate, whether or not the enemy attempts an invasion of the European continent, Germany will check the Soviet advance on the Eastern Front. Germany's defense structure against the Soviet advance is being swiftly completed.

Euphrates River Overflows

Special

LISBON, May 8.—The Euphrates River has started to overflow and hundreds of houses are being threatened with destruction, according to Radio Jaffa. Many dwellings have already been rendered uninhabitable and casualties have also been reported, the broadcast added.

Low Water Level In Thames Makes Londoners Worry

Special

LISBON, May 8.—The extraordinary low water level of the Thames is calling forth no little concern in London, according to a dispatch from the British capital. There has never been a lower level, and every day the water reserves are diminishing by 30,000,000 gallons, it was stated by water supply experts. The press is asking the population to be careful with the water consumption.

NO CHANGE REPORTED IN GANDHI'S CONDITION

Advised by Physician to Try Change of Air at Bombay Or South of Poona

Domei

LISBON, May 8.—No change has been seen in Mahatma Gandhi's health since his release from prison, it is reported from Poona.

After his release, the Mahatma has been anxious to see his friends and the attending physicians have permitted him to have interviews for two hours a day on condition that no political problems are taken up for discussion. He reads several different newspapers daily and occasionally, is vigorous enough to work at his spinning-wheel. The Indian patriot is expected to undergo examination by an X-ray expert tomorrow and to have X-ray photographs taken of his heart. A physician attending him is reported to have advised him to try a change of air at Bombay or at a health resort south of Poona.

Fuehrer's Headquarters

May 8

At Sebastopol yesterday, the enemy attacked with strong forces after heavy artillery fire. In the southern sector, the Soviets succeeded in effecting a salient but our troops in the northern sector repulsed all enemy attacks. Our fighter and battleplane formations as well as Luftwaffe A.A.-batteries in defense against strong enemy aerial attacks destroyed 130 Soviet planes.

East of the Rumanian Sereth, our panzer grenadiers occupied some dominating hills and 15 enemy tanks as well as 41 guns were destroyed. Numerous prisoners were also taken.

Between the Pruth and the Moldavia, the defensive battle which began on April 26 has temporarily terminated. The attempt at breaking through made by the Soviets with 20 rifle divisions and several tank divisions was foiled by the German and Rumanian troops excellently supported by the Luftwaffe. The enemy suffered heavy casualties and lost 386 tanks and 92 guns as well as 100 aircraft.

In the Nettuno beachhead, the enemy yesterday made local thrusts which were repulsed while our long-range artillery successfully shelled food and ammunition dumps.

Anglo-U.S. bombers yesterday during daytime and also last night raided Bucharest causing damage as well as losses among the population and 14 raiders were downed by the German and Rumanian air defence forces.

Numerous American bombers making use of the completely overcast sky launched a terror attack against Berlin and several places in western Germany. Damage was caused to dwelling houses and cultural institutions especially in the capital. Casualties were suffered by the people.

Last night some British planes bombed Cologne and Duesseldorf and 26 enemy aircraft including 17 four-engined bombers were shot down.

Given Jerusalem Post

Special

LISBON, May 7.—Abdul Kerim Sultanov, a Mohammedan, and Second Secretary of the Soviet Legation in Cairo, has been appointed Soviet Consul in Jerusalem, according to a London broadcast.

WILSON'S CONDUCT OF WAR DISCOUNTED

Due to Failure There Now No Longer Talk of Entering Rome, Reich Scribe Says

Special

BERLIN, May 7.—General Sir Henry Maitland Wilson's conduct of war in Italy clearly reveals that the Anglo-Americans do not know how to master the situation, according to a report from Italy by German war correspondent, Karl Praegner. The correspondent pointed out that there is no longer talk of entering Rome and that even the very slow advance from the south front has finally come to a complete standstill.

Of actual fighting action in Italy, the correspondent revealed that on the Nettuno front British and American shock troops launched attacks against German advanced bases and forefield fortifications. He said that by such thrusts the invasion troops were attempting to neutralize the improvement of positions recently achieved by German shock-troop commandos. The center of gravity was situated on both sides of the road leading from Torre di Padigkione to Aprilia and the Anglo-Americans repeated their attacks several times. The correspondent revealed that German advanced guards and occupants of the advanced bases repelled the attackers everywhere.

The correspondent said that major formations of Anglo-American planes tried in vain to check the devastating activity of German heavy arms but that they did not achieve the least bit of success during the past three weeks.

On the Italian southern front, German heavy batteries and trench mortars effectively answered the fire of the Anglo-American artillery. The German gunfire was particularly effective in the lower Garigliano Valley and between the coastal mountains and Cassino. In the area of Minturno an enemy thrust was easily repulsed by German shock-troops. The correspondent also disclosed that German fighters and battleplanes, including tankbusting planes, bombed the road system near the Anglo-American front in the upper and middle Garigliano Valley, inflicting heavy losses on enemy troop movements and transports.

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ITALIANS HEAR TALK GIVEN BY PRINCIPINI

Importance of Recent Hitler-Mussolini Meet Explained to Tokyo-Yokohama Residents

A meeting of all Italians in Tokyo and Yokohama, and a number of Japanese and German friends, was held at 3 p.m. Tuesday in the Italian Embassy in Mita, Tokyo, for the purpose of explaining the historical importance of the recent meeting between Il Duce of Fascist Italy and the Fuehrer of Germany.

Led by Colonel Omero Principini, Charge d'Affaires and temporary Protector of the Italian interests in Japan, the meeting was opened with the ritual Fascist salute to Il Duce followed by the observance of one minute's silence in memory of the glorious and heroic death of Fleet-Admiral Mineichi Koga, late Commander-in-Chief of the Combined Fleet of the Imperial Japanese Navy.

In the talk which followed, special stress was laid by Colonel Principini on the increased understanding and cooperation which have resulted from the recent meeting between the two leaders. It was also mentioned by Colonel Principini that the meeting has had the effect of inspiring the best elements of Italy to further, if possible, their trust in and devotion to Il Duce.

Victory Beyond Doubt

The meeting has had the additional effect, Colonel Principini continued, of inculcating in all those Italian leaders who took part in it the deep-rooted conviction that the moral, economic and material strength of the German people proves beyond doubt the certainty of ultimate victory for the Axis Powers.

The new spirit with which the forces under Il Duce are now imbued was also touched upon by Colonel Principini. The action of the Italian volunteers in the battle south of Cisterne on the Nettuno-Anzio bridgehead section, mentioned in the official German war bulletin a few days ago, marks the beginning of the third and final phase of the crisis through which Italy has passed, said Colonel Principini. The Fascist masses, he added, have reacquired the consciousness of their own strength and fighting possibilities.

In expressing his sincere gratitude for the close collaboration and cooperation extended to Italy by Germany and Japan, it was declared by Colonel Principini that the recent Italian national tragedy had only served to deepen this friendship among the three nations, and that the immediate recognition of Mussolini's Government by Germany and Japan was a clear expression of the faith that these two nations have in Mussolini's Italy.

TO FETE THAI, P.I. ENVOYS

Tsutsumi Sponsoring Tea Party at Residence of Prince Shimazu

Thai Ambassador Wichit Wichit-Wathakan, Burmese Ambassador Dr. Thein Maung, Philippine Ambassador Jorge B. Vargas and the staff members of these Embassies are expected to be the guests at a tea party to be sponsored by Kojiro Tsutsumi, a member of the House of Representatives, at 1 p.m. today at the residence of Prince Tadashige Shimazu at No. 6 Gotanda, Shinagawa-ku.

Kyuzo Mifune, outstanding Judo expert of the Kodokan, will demonstrate the various holds and throws of Judo in the course of the function. The party is expected to be attended by many notables both from official and civilian circles.

TO LAUD SCHOOL TEACHERS

Tokyo Education Society to Celebrate 60th Anniversary

The Tokyo Metropolitan Education Society will celebrate its 60th anniversary and hold its 19th ceremony commending 78 teachers of national schools, boys' middle schools, and girls' high schools who have served for many consecutive years, at the Education Hall on May 18 at 2 p.m.

Those to be commended include Ikutaro Komachi, 57, principal of the Onnazuka National School, Kamata-ku, who has spent 43 years teaching; Kiyoshi Iwabuchi, 59, principal of the Third National School in Takinogawa-ku, who has taught for 40 consecutive years; Mrs. Toki Inoue, 53, who has taught for 34 years and even now is teaching at the First National School in Omori-ku, and others.

Ohashi Given Decoration

Shintaro Ohashi, member of the House of Peers, who passed away on May 5 was posthumously conferred with the Third Class Order of the Rising Sun with the Middle Cordon for his outstanding services in business and educational circles, it was announced on Tuesday.

Local Fascists Meet

Italian residents of Tokyo and Yokohama are shown in above photo saluting Il Duce at a meeting held at the Italian Embassy on Tuesday afternoon.

MANCHOU TYPIFIES REALITY OF E. ASIA

Nation Pushing Developments Into a Modern State of 20th Century Miracle

Special

HSINKING, May 8.—Emphasizing the fact that Manchoukuo is Greater East Asia in miniature, Ku Tsuheng, Manchoukuo Minister of Communications, in a recent interview, declared: "Manchoukuo is a laboratory in which the ideals of Greater East Asia are being worked out in reality. At the same time, it is a model for the other nations of East Asia."

Advising those who are harboring doubt as to the future of East Asia as well as those who want to know the East Asia of tomorrow, to come and see Manchoukuo for themselves, Minister Ku went on: "The aim behind the material construction of Manchoukuo is to create a modern 20th century state, and the goal in the spiritual development of this country is the realization of true racial harmony."

Stating that the speed with which Manchoukuo has developed into a modern state is a 20th century miracle, he continued: "Manchoukuo today is a living proof of the reality of East Asia. The construction of Manchoukuo is being pushed along scientific lines, but the material side has not been overstressed to the detriment of the spiritual. The construction of Manchoukuo is being based on the traditional spirit of the Orient."

Taking China as an example, Minister Ku said: "Culture first spread throughout the country along rivers and other waterways, and later along roads. Therefore, the two important tasks of the Manchoukuo Ministry of Communications are to promote the utilization of this country's waterways, and the building of railways and roads."

Declaring that tremendous achievements had been made in the spiritual field by Manchoukuo's successful fight in eradicating opium-smoking, Ku declared: "Sixty years ago, the people of Manchoukuo spent 140,000,000 yuan annually to satisfy their drug habits. Since then opium-smoking has been practically wiped out in China and Manchoukuo. The success of the people of Manchoukuo in throwing off this habit is proof of the immeasurable moral and spiritual strength of the Oriental people."

Turning next to the subject of the youth of Manchoukuo, Minister Ku stated: "Manchoukuo is being constructed by the youths of this country. The growing patriotism of our younger generation is nothing short of astonishing. For instance, the double-track railway line between Harbin and Hsinking was built by youths who voluntarily offered their services. That was long before volunteer labor organizations appeared in either Asia or Europe."

Minister Ku is the father of two children. He is especially proud of his eldest son who is at present studying at the Kyushu Imperial University. The Minister himself is a graduate of the Tokyo Higher Normal School.

GANDHI'S RELEASE HELD AS COWARDLY

Azad Hind Spokesman Avers British Feared Mahatma's Death in Prison

Special

SHONAN, May 6.—Commenting on the 11th hour release of Mahatma Gandhi from Poona prison, the spokesman of the Provisional Government of Azad Hind declared today that the British move is "typical of the frightened and cowardly gang of criminals and murderers who rule India today."

He furthermore said:

"The British Government has released the Mahatma after making sure that his health was shattered beyond recovery. Cowards that they are, the British don't want to accept the responsibility for Mahatma Gandhi's death in a British prison; they dare not face the tremendous countrywide upheaval which is bound to follow such a tragedy."

Recalling that the Mahatma has been seriously ill for nearly a month, and that both Viceroy Wavell and British Secretary of State for India Amery have been persistently ignoring the anxiety of India's millions and the criticism of the entire right thinking world, the spokesman stressed that this time the British authorities decided to release Gandhi merely because they are afraid that he might die in a British prison.

British Action Hit

The spokesman pointed out that the British Government did not consider Gandhi's release during his 21-day fast last year obviously because at that time the great leader's life was not in dire peril. He declared: "Today the British Government realizes the magnitude of the irresistible anti-British revolution in India. The British are also conscious of the invincible might of the forces of India's Liberation Army battling their way toward New Delhi. The British are afraid to have the blood of Gandhi on their hands. The tremendous anti-British unrest following the death of Mrs. Kasturbai Gandhi in prison is still fresh in the minds of the British tyrants. That is why they have released the Mahatma alive, but half dead."

Regarding the Anglo-American efforts to paint the Mahatma's release as a prelude to some sort of settlement between the British Government and the Indian National Congress, the spokesman asserted: "It is just another British propaganda stunt to curb the Indian revolution and to deceive the masses of people."

Declaring that the Americans, allies of the British were merely indulging in wishful thinking, the spokesman said: "The Mahatma is bed-ridden. The British have assured themselves that in any case Gandhi will not regain his normal health for quite some time. Is it not fantastic to talk of British negotiations with the great leader hovering between life and death?"

The spokesman said that Gandhi was noted for his loyalty and devotion to his colleagues in high command in the National Congress and he would not commit himself to any vital decision—least of all in regard to the party's relations with the British—without the concurrence of his collaborators who are all languishing in British prisons.

"The crucial hour has arrived," the spokesman continued, "and every Indian in East Asia is anxiously waiting for further news of the Mahatma's condition, hoping and praying that he will yet survive this grave crisis and live to see the fulfillment of his life mission which is the liberation of India.

"And while the Mahatma's life hangs in the balance, Providence is working overtime to expedite the doom of the Churchills, Wavells and Amerys who have deliberately plotted to murder the Mahatma and to shirk responsibility for the dastardly crime."

CHINA JOURNALISTS FETED AT BANQUET

Chinese Envoy, Nippon Dignitaries Attend Function Held For Central Press Heads

Kuo Hsiu-feng and Hu Liu-chou, president and vice-president, respectively, of the Central Press Service of China, who are now visiting Japan, attended the banquet sponsored by the Domei News Agency at the Imperial Hotel on Monday at 6 p.m.

Present were Tsai Pei, Chinese Ambassador to Japan; Eiji Amau and Goro Murata, president and vice-president, respectively, of the Board of Information; Shimpei Takeuchi, director of the General Affairs Bureau of the Greater East Asiatic Affairs Ministry; Colonel Shuitsu Matsumura and Captain Etsuzo Kurihara, sectional chiefs of the Army Press Section and the Navy Press Section of the Imperial Headquarters, respectively; Shigeo Odachi, Governor of Tokyo Metropolis, and others including prominent men of press circles.

On this occasion, Mr. Kuo expressed China's determination to fight shoulder-to-shoulder with Japan for the liberation of East Asia.

On Tuesday, the two Chinese visitors attended the luncheon tendered by Shunichi Matsumoto, Foreign Vice-Minister. In the afternoon they inspected the offices of the Asahi, Mainichi, Yomiuri-Hochi, and others. In the evening they were present at the dinner reception sponsored by Mr. Amau.

In a press interview, Mr. Kuo declared that he was amazed over the conditions he witnessed in wartime Japan where all Japanese, young and old, are calmly devoting themselves to their respective occupations.

Invited by the Domei News Agency to hold discussions with various news bodies for the purpose of bringing about closer collaboration between Japan and China, he stated that stress is now being laid in China on three points emphasized by President Wang Ching-wei in his New Year's Day address, namely purification of ideals, securing peace and order, and boosting production.

Regarding purification of ideals, Kuo pointed out that the new national movement has already been successfully launched. He added that the movement for securing perfect peace and order is being propelled, while for boosting production of foodstuffs, a large-scale program is under way. China is determined to live up to the expectations of its allies in the Greater East Asia Co Prosperity Sphere by concentrating all-out efforts on the attainment of these three ideals, Mr. Kuo said.

Mr. Kuo denounced Chungking which, acting as cat's-paw for the Anglo-Americans, is still putting up meaningless resistance against Japan. He said sooner or later, however, Chungking must awake to the fact that Asia is for the Asiatic peoples and that China and Japan are two pillars of East Asia.

RITES HELD FOR WAR DEAD

Vice-Adm. Shibazaki Among Those Honored at Yokosuka Services

Joint funeral services for the late Vice-Admiral Keiji Shibazaki who was killed in action last November when he heroically fought the enemy task force which attacked Makin and Tarawa Islands and other naval men were solemnized at the Yokosuka Naval Station at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, according to Buddhist rites.

Members of the bereaved families, Admiral Zengo Yoshida, Commander-in-Chief of the Yokosuka Naval Station, and other naval and civilian representatives attended the ceremony.

Chiang Troops Rob Food Stores in Honan; People Turn to Acacia Flowers for Food

By T. ITO
Of the Military Press Corps

UNDISCLOSED BASE ON HONAN FRONT, May 6.—Though the acacia flowers, now in full bloom in the Honan district, offer a delightful diversion to the men of the Japanese Forces, to the half-starved, listless inhabitants of this region, it is the only food available until the new crop of wheat is harvested. Acacia blooms can be seen drying in the yards everywhere.

Such pictures of emaciated and hungry people have been repainted again and again in all districts under the control of the Chungking regime. The fertile plains of Honan, which stretch for miles, are green with fields of waving wheat. It is one of the richest agricultural areas in China. Yet, the populace must go hungry with only acacia flowers to satisfy their hunger.

The rural folks, always cautious in providing for the interval between harvests, would ordinarily have stored some grain in their hiding places. They have always known that they must provide against natural calamities and pillaging by the army. However, the unfortunate people do not even have a handful of grain.

The payment of taxes in kind instead of cash—a system adopted under the corrupt government policy from the latter half of 1941—has proved disastrous to the rural folks and they have been left with barely enough food to sustain them till the next harvest. Furthermore, the reinforcement of the armed forces has called for more requisitioning of foodstuff from towns and villages where the troops are stationed. Whenever fleeing before the onrush of the Japanese Forces, the Chungking troops plunder the carefully stored food of the inhabitants. They leave nothing behind. Thus, though the plains of Honan ripple with the fresh green waves of young wheat plants, the populace must eat acacia flowers.

Under the protection and through magnanimity of the Japanese Forces, the hungry masses are now being served with rice gruel. The exploited inhabitants shudder at the thought of the fearful nightmare they experienced under the Chungking regime. Now able to see the Japanese Forces in a new light, their once deeply-rooted anti-Japanese prejudices are melting away like the winter snow.

BURMA POSSESSES CRACK ARMY FORCE

Modernized in Structure, Burmese Soldiers Guard West Gateway of East Asia

Domei

RANGOON, May 7.—The Burmese National Defense Army, already maintains a large number of crack troops. With the formation of modern mechanized units such as anti-aircraft, truck and communication, the National Defense Army is defending the western gateway of East Asia, in close collaboration with the Japanese Army.

Major-General Thakin Aung San, Commander-in-Chief of the Burmese National Defense Army, in a press interview with Japanese reporters on Saturday, pointed out the ever-heightening morale of the National Defense Army and expressed a firm determination to defend Burma at all costs, in cooperation with the Japanese Forces. His interview follows:

"The other day when I heard from an officer about our fighting against the enemy air-transported units and was informed of our comparatively few casualties as compared with those of the enemy, I thought that the enemy, minding the defense alone, did not know our advancing strategy.

"The Anglo-American forces are frantic about defending their own safety, banking on their guns and abundant materials, while the soldiers of our army are severely trained to cultivate a burning fighting spirit. The United States and Britain propagandize that their forces have been greatly trained in jungle fighting, but how can they claim to have become good jungle-fighters despite the fact that they cannot carry on fighting without the supply of luxurious foodstuffs by air units.

"The first duty of our army is, needless to say, to defend Burma, but secondly it should exert its all possible efforts toward the establishment of Greater East Asia. In order to fulfill this important mission, the National Defense Army should do its best to smash the enemy para-troops by fighting in the jungles, in collaboration with the Japanese Army.

"Duties imposed on us are being gradually achieved as was proved in the recent fighting. On the other hand, the National Defense Army should also be enlarged so as to successfully achieve its duties."

Red Cross Meeting

The 52nd regular general meeting of the Japan Red Cross Society will be held at 10 a.m. today at its headquarters in Shiba Park in the presence of His Imperial Highness Prince Kanin, Patron of the Society, and Her Imperial Highness Princess Nashimoto, Patroness of the Volunteer Nurses' Association.

Vice-Adm. Yamamoto Dies

Technical Vice-Admiral Mikinosuke Yamamoto, 62, retired, died of illness at his Omori residence on Sunday. Funeral rites will be solemnized at the Zojoji Temple at Shiba-ku, at 2 p.m. today.

Matsumoto in Manila

Domei

MANILA, May 7—Professor Takizo Matsumoto of Meiji University will lecture on the political history of Japan at the summer course in Oriental Culture at Philippine University. He arrived here yesterday.

GOOD TRADE PREDICTED BETWEEN P.I., MANCHOU

Alunan Says Both Countries Have Great Future in Imports and Exports

Domei

MUKDEN, May 8.—A bright future for trade between Manchoukuo and the Philippines was forecast by Rafael R. Alunan, Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources of the Philippine Government, in a press interview.

"There are many things which we can import from Manchoukuo. Before the war, the Philippines imported 40,000,000 pesos worth of flour from the United States. This flour as well as soya beans can be bought from Manchoukuo while in exchange the Philippines can send sugar, hemp and tobacco to that country," revealed Mr. Alunan.

He added that Manchoukuo would find a ready market for fruit crop in the Philippines, pointing out the fact that the Philippines imported large quantities of citrus fruits and apples from the United States before the war.

He also stated that differences in climate would enable the two countries to supplement each other in mutual profitable trade in agriculture.

Concert Calendar

Tenth subscription concert by the Nippon Philharmonic Orchestra, under the baton of Kazuo Yamada, at 6 p.m., today and tomorrow, May 10 and 11, at the Hibiya Public Hall. Soloist: Motonari Iguchi, piano. Program: Akira Ifukube's Symphonic Poem; Berlioz's three pieces from "Damnation of Faust"; Brahms' Piano Concerto No. 2; Wagner's Overture-Tannhaeuser.

The 29th subscription concert by the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra, under the baton of Hideo Saito, Tuesday, May 16, at 6 p.m., at the Hibiya Public Hall. Soloist: Miss Mary Estelle Iwamoto, violin. Program: Mozart's Symphony No. 41 (Jupiter); Brahms' Violin Concerto in D major; Shinichi Takata's "Sakura."

Waltz Evening, a special concert by the Nippon Philharmonic Orchestra, under the baton of Hisatada Otaka, Tuesday, May 23, at 6 p.m., at the Hibiya Public Hall. Program: Shinichi Takata's "Rikugun Damashii"; Strauss' Waltz—Emperor; Waltz—The Voice of Spring; Waltz—Le Beau Danube Bleu; Beethoven's Symphony No. 6 in F major (Pastorale).

Symphony Music Evening, by the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra, under the baton of Noboru Kaneko, Friday, May 26, at 6:30 p.m., at the Hibiya Public Hall. Program: Taike's Old Friend; Strauss' Waltz—The Roses of the South; Shinichi Takata's Sakura; Tschaikowsky's Ballet Suite—The Swan Lake; Schubert's Unfinished Symphony.

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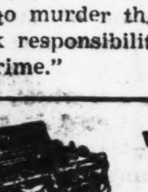

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TOKYO, WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 1944

Plan for a Pan-American Economic Bloc

The proposal by the adviser of the Inter-American Finance and Economic Committee now meeting in Washington for the establishment of an economic bloc embracing the United States and the Latin American countries as a "counter-measure against the British preference system," as reported in a Washington dispatch a few days ago, serves to reemphasize the ineradicable commercial rivalry which exists between the Anglo-American countries. According to this dispatch, this counter plan has been suggested in the United States in view of the possible formulation of an over-all post-war trade policy for the British Commonwealth of Nations at the Empire Conference of Dominion Prime Ministers now in session at London—a trade policy which, regardless of its avowed objectives, must come into conflict with the commercial program of the United States.

A great amount of bitterness has thus apparently been created in the United States over the question of imperial trade preference which was instituted by the British Empire at its conference at Ottawa in the summer of 1932. The Foreign Policy Bulletin, a periodical published in the United States, has gone as far as to declare that this British trade practise constitutes a "serious issue" in Anglo-American relations. The United States News a few days ago vigorously denounced the discrimination which obviously would be meted out to made-in-the-U.S. products under the British trade preference scheme. The latest proposal to set up a pan-American economic bloc dominated by the United States might, therefore, have been intended as a warning to the delegates to the British Empire Conference that the United States has a powerful trump card which, when used, can thwart the British imperial trade preference system.

How effectively such a pan-American economic bloc controlled by the United States can be made to operate against Britain can be readily surmised from the fact that the Northern Colossus could force practically all the Central and South American countries to extend preferential treatment to all export products of the United States and make them agree to a common high tariff schedule which would apply to a portion or all British Empire goods. The adoption of such a course would deprive Britain and her Dominions of the extremely lucrative markets in the Latin American countries and would be most disastrous to Canada which is so economically dependent on the United States.

To any nation interested in the commercial prosperity of all humanity, the British system of imperial trade preference as well as the suggested United States plan to create an economic bloc that would obviously be closed to non-American countries must be condemned as reprehensible and retrogressive acts. Such schemes will invite economic disaster not only to themselves but also to other nations as well. In any post-war trade program, the fundamental economic basis for prosperity must not be lost sight of. That is, to export also entails the obligation to import. There can be no one-way commerce between any nation for an indefinite period without consequent dislocations in the international trade machinery. The Anglo-American nations must be well aware of this truism for it was their vicious commercial policies that brought about the world-wide business depression. Only free access to the raw materials and trade markets of the world to all as the Axis Powers have consistently advocated can provide the basis for a stable economic order.

Gandhi's Release

The Government of India has suddenly released Mahatma Gandhi from Poona Prison where he had been confined since August 9, 1942. It will be recalled that he was arrested, together with other leaders of the Indian National Congress including Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, because of their anti-British activities and their demand for the withdrawal of British power from India. During the 21 months of his imprisonment, there had been a nationwide demand for his unconditional release but the British authorities had refused to comply with their requests on the ground that it was impossible to set him free unless he abandoned political activities altogether.

Gandhi demanded his release himself last spring when he underwent a three-week fasting by which his health was considerably impaired. On that occasion the British authorities greatly angered the Indian patriots by evading their responsibility for the dire effects of the act by declaring that "Gandhi himself should hold himself responsible for all the dangers that will accompany his fasting." The Indian Office has officially stated in connection with its decision to release Gandhi that this action is based on "medical grounds." It is clear that the latest step taken by the British authorities is calculated to prevent beforehand the general vent of anger which will be manifested by the Indian masses in case he should die in prison.

It has been announced by his head-physician that Gandhi's health has been low since April 10 and that particularly after April 16 his condition has been weakened because of ill effects from malaria. It may be that his end is only a matter of time despite his release.

Gandhi's persistent struggle against British tyranny extending for half a century with his slight physique of little more than one hundred pounds was possible because of his wonderful spiritual power. Despite his long imprisonment and dangers to life due to fasting, he has attained a longevity which is seldom seen in the average Indian. It is clear that all this was possible because of his unflinching spirit and dauntless fighting power. His spirit stirred the blood of 300,000,000 souls of India and promised the realization of "India for Indians."

His non-resistance struggle has developed into armed contests under the guidance of Subhas Chandra Bose, Head of the Provisional Government of Free India and the Commander-in-Chief of the Indian National Army. Together with the Imperial Army, the Free Indian forces have already advanced into Indian territory and after storming the strategic points of Manipur, is now threatening the enemy's base at Imphal. Stirred by this great military success, all India has been staging a nation-wide revolt against British rule and Britain's mighty pillar is tottering from the very foundation. Because of the cruel treatment accorded him during his imprisonment by the British authorities, it is within the realm of possibility that Gandhi's death may be hastened. And release or no release, it will be the responsibility of Britain should this unfortunate eventuality occur. In any event there can be no question that the present incident will add fuel to the Indian people's anger against British misrule.

The New York Times declared in its editorial comment on May 6 that Gandhi's release may be taken as the British authorities' evasion of their responsibility for his death and as a gesture of their conviction in British victory. Mrs. Henry Luce, writing in the Life magazine, has stated that the release of Gandhi is intended to temper the independence movement of the Indian people.

Both Britain and the United States should realize that the spiritual influence of Mahatma Gandhi on the people of India is equally powerful whether he is in prison or out of it. Moreover, the contest against "those who conquered India with the sword and are maintaining it with the sword" is being actually carried out by Bose's Indian National Army, thereby playing the leading role in the Indian independence movement.

The national enthusiasm and fire of the Indian people are so ardently ablaze now that neither Gandhi's release nor the sweet words of the British Government can have any effect at all. His release cannot even be a gesture toward conviction of victory as the New York World Telegram believes it to be. It is apparent that any British expectation for political advantages following his release is a vain hope.

A Year Ago Today

May 10, 1943

President Franklin Roosevelt today sent a special message to Congress and demanded the approval of an additional budget amounting to $4,934,725,000 as expenditures of the Naval Air Bureau. In the same message Roosevelt stated that this is absolutely needed for the prosecution of the war, but the details of the budget have not been divulged.

* * *

A conference of British military, political and diplomatic representatives in West Asia was opened at Cairo today under the chairmanship of Richard G. Casey, Middle East Minister of the British War Cabinet. Various military and diplomatic questions concerning West Asia were discussed at the conference. Representatives of the United States also attended the conference which is expected to continue for several days more.

Revival of China's Agriculture

President Wang Pushes Measures for Farm Reform as Immediate Necessity in Prosecution of War

By MASAO KANDA
(From the Keikoku)

On the first anniversary of the participation in the Greater East Asia War by the National Government of China President Wang Ching-wei declared, among other things, that the primary aim during the second year shall be production expansion. As concrete measures to bring this about, President Wang has pointed out various policies such as the training of the masses in the matters of war prosecution, and the resuscitation of agricultural villages in China which will be realized through the following: (a) the improvement of existing agricultural lands and reclamation of waste lands, (b) the betterment of farming technique, (c) the education of farmers in agricultural methods, (d) the organization and training of youths in agrarian communities as well as the middle Chinese farmers, (e) the reform of agricultural communities in general and (f) the restoration of light industries having close relation with the daily necessaries of farming villages. From time immemorial China has been essentially an agricultural country, and the truth recognized that without agricultural restoration, there can be no prosperity.

Agriculture in China may be traced back some 4,000 years. It has a noble history of its own. The Chinese farmers are unexcelled in the cultivation and preservation of arable soil. If, therefore, modern improvement should be added to the Chinese system, a wonderful expansion of production will certainly be recorded. Even without such modern improvement, the Chinese have been able to show a remarkable productive capacity when immune from natural and human calamities.

China is endowed with all natural advantages for her agriculture: she has a vast and extensive land of wonderful fertility, favored by a temperate climate particularly suited to farming. Being thus assisted by favorable natural conditions, China is blessed with abundant agricultural materials whose high variety enables the farmers to supply the nation with all indispensable products and to export the surplus. The great majority of the Chinese have been deriving their living from farming. It has been the life blood of China. The State depended on it for revenue and social order and security as well as national economy were all based upon this agrarian industry.

Decline Rapid in Republic

Unfortunately, however, after the penetration of Western influence toward close of the Chin Dynasty, Chinese economy based upon agriculture came to show a gradual but steady decline, which tendency was intensified after the establishment of the republican regime in 1911. The amount of agrarian exports dwindled, until finally China came to depend upon foreign countries for her supply of foodstuffs and clothing materials.

China is particularly short of reliable statistics, especially after the outbreak of the China Affair, but according to the pre-Affair maritime customs statistics, China's annually importation of rice and flour ranged from the vast amount of 41,000,000 piculs valued at 229,000,000 taels to more than 20,000,000 piculs valued at more than 13,000,000 taels. Besides, she had to import annually 4,600,000 piculs of cotton piece goods valued at 179,000,000 taels and 1,240,000, piculs of tobacco worth 48,000,000 taels. So that China's total import was valued 476,000,000 taels per year in some years. Even when the figures were comparatively small, the total did not descend the 300,000,000 level. Such was the general agricultural condition prior to the China Affair.

Thus, because of the decline of her farming, China had to depend on foreign countries for the supply of her daily necessities. But the outbreak of the Greater East Asia War cut off the routes of foreign supply. Hitherto, the adverse balance of the import excess had been met by the money transmitted to China by overseas Chinese, the deficit of agricultural production being met by imported food provisions and clothing. But as this became impossible, the restoration of Chinese agriculture has become a subject of stupendous importance for the Chinese.

Although the problem of living is paramount to all countries, it is particularly so for the Chinese, for the importance of living has been traditionally recognized as a fixed truth in China since time immemorial.

Considering China's importation of vast quantities of foodstuffs from a technical viewpoint, the first reason may be found in the fact that the cost of production of foodstuffs in foreign countries has been much cheaper than in China, particularly in the case of Annam and Thailand. The second is that these two countries have been producing foodstuffs in excess of their own consumption, and the third lies in the cheap cost of marine transportation by which foodstuffs were imported. The last reason is found in the cheap tax levied on imported provisions. The greatest of all these four reasons is the last named. This factor had the effect of reducing the prices of Chinese farm products to an extreme degree making it impossible for the Chinese farmers to make both ends meet in their enterprise. Thus, the Chinese production of food and other farm products was faced by the same fate as the Chinese handicraft industry which was overwhelmed by the machine industry of Western nations.

Handicapped by West

Naturally, the problem of the restoration of Chinese farming had been actively studied and discussed among the serious-minded people and statesmen in China, especially since the establishment of the republican regime in China. But inasmuch as China remained a semi-colony of Western aggressor nations, she was handicapped by such problems as the imperfect customs autonomy, the continuation of extraterritoriality, the existence of foreign concessions and the general absence of sovereign rights on the part of China—under such conditions all reform measures however excellent and sagaciously conceived proved futile and utterly ineffective. The frequent changes of government also provided no time for the execution of proper reform measures, and proved another serious factor in its deterioration.

But the National Government at Nanking is now in a position to carry out the measures necessary for the restoration of farming in China to its ancient glory. China has been able to free herself from the fetters of extraterritoriality and foreign concessions thanks to Japan's cooperation and assistance and can now display her inherent ability as an independent nation. China now can restore her agricultural villages without any interference from foreign nations.

We are convinced that it is because of this great opportunity that President Wang is now attempting to carry out his policies of production expansion, the resuscitation of agricultural communities and the basic reform of agriculture. However, it must be remembered that since the National Government returned to its present site, it only recently faces serious difficulties in actually carrying out these measures without outside cooperation, inasmuch as all of these policies involve the difficult problems of technique and personal management. The help of experienced experts will be required for the efficient management of agricultural enterprises, but it is impossible to produce such experts in a day.

Japanese Model Used

The Nanking Government is sagaciously attempting to follow the Japanese model in effecting its policies. The object of China's proposed production expansion is to make herself the supply base of Greater East Asia in prosecuting the current global war, as explained by President Wang; and this means that China must effect production expansion within the next few years—a feat which Japan succeeded in bringing about only through endeavors extending over the past several decades. The National Government will be able to carry out such measures as the maintenance of public security, the establishment of facilities for exchange of materials, the abolition of burdensome taxes and the control and suppression of dishonest merchants, etc. But it will have to depend on Japan for such practical phases as the selection of proper seeds, the betterment of the methods of cultivation, the creation of an efficient irrigation system, etc, —in short on Japanese technique, experience and scientific knowledge in farming.

But, it will not be indispensable that China attempt to expand only or chiefly the production of rice and wheat, to cope with the problem of the people's livelihood on one hand and to fulfill her role as the supply base of the Asiatic homefront, when the actual conditions in that country are taken into consideration. In Japan, too, we have been encouraging the production of substitute foods such as potatoes and sweet potatoes rather than the exclusive production of rice and wheat, as the former can be produced in greater quantities. Likewise, it would be advisable to encourage the consumption of potatoes and sweet potatoes instead of rice and wheat in China and to produce the former under the prevailing circumstances.

According to the statistics provided by the Department of the Agriculture and Commerce in the former Peking Government, the total arable land in China is estimated at 1,248 million mu (1 mu is 6.667 acres) of which about 53 per cent is used in the cultivation of rice and wheat; to be more exact, the area of rice paddies is 321,000,000 mu and that of the wheat fields, 342,000,000 mu. Paddies are more extensively found in the southern regions and the wheat fields in the north.

Potatoes as Staple Food

It would be advantageous because of climatic conditions that the cultivation of potatoes should be encouraged in the north and that of sweet potatoes in the south. Although their production has hitherto been carried on in China to some extent, it can never be compared to that of rice and wheat in point of quantity, and in fact the potato and sweet potato were not included among the stable farm products of the land. In Japan, too, it was only several years ago that extensive cultivation of the potato and the sweet potato came to be encouraged and our experience may be profitably utilized by the Chinese farmers. Our experts can teach them about the proper methods, or they may transplant superior species. Such technical help will certainly enable the Chinese to solve their food problem especially because they possess a vast area which may be utilized as fields.

Thus the present decline of Chinese farming is due to manifold and accumulated causes and mere theories will not achieve any result. On the other hand, stress should be laid on the policy of enhancing the real interests of the Chinese farmers themselves and of stabilizing their own living, if the best results are to be attained. This is particularly true in purchasing the farm products from them. Suppose, for instance, that their products are bought by the Chinese Government at prices which do not permit the farmers to pay the cost of their production. It will be possible to purchase the products at such a nominal price once, but not in the future. Nor is it adequate merely to cover their actual cost of production in purchasing their products. What is important is that the farmers should be supplied with their daily necessaries in return for their products. Otherwise, they will not be willing to raise their products as expected by the authorities. Unless the desire of the Chinese farmers is taken into consideration, no encouragement or guidance will be effective in persuading them to expand their production.

And this is why President Wang Ching-wei urges the restoration of such light industries as textile and flour manufacturing which are closely related to the daily necessaries of agricultural villages, in carrying out their restoration.

In view of the importance of China as the supply base of Greater East Asia, Japan should realize that the most effective way of prosecuting the current war is to give full and adequate assistance to the National Government of China.

EAST ASIA'S EDITORIAL FORUM

Views of Leading Journals on Pertinent Subjects

Japan's Might

(From The Hongkong News)

Reports emanating from the United States from time to time reveal two schools of thought regarding the war against Japan in that country. One view is decidedly rose-tinted and apparently represents the opinion of those who are responsible for the nation's war effort. Normally this view should be the correct one since it is held by people who are "in the know." But the resounding defeats sustained by the armed forces of the United States since Pearl Harbor have turned the present situation into an abnormal one; and those who hold the reins of office, being unable to reveal the whole truth lest their electorate turn against them, have therefore had to resort to excessive optimism to placate the people. Thus far, the statements of these "responsible" men have almost invariably been refuted by subsequent events, making them the laughing stock of the world. At the other end of the scale, military commentators who have had actual experience of the fighting fronts in the Pacific and others who have returned to the United States after many years in the East have been persistently warning the country against undue optimism in the Pacific War. These latter people by no means share the view that Japan can be crushed easily when the "real" United States counter-offensive begins. Indeed the picture they present is such a gloomy one that in contrast to the optimism of the first school of thought it becomes almost laughable.

Ray Cronin, former Associated Press Bureau chief in Manila, has come forth with another warning to his countrymen. This is what he says: "If we neglect this Pacific war much longer, it will cost us losses in men and machines that will make what has been termed an American offensive in the Pacific thus far a pecking operation." Cronin adds that if Japan is given time to develop the resources she now commands she would one day become well-nigh unbeatable. Another one to add his voice to the campaign against optimism is Walter Nash, the New Zealand Minister to the United States, who bluntly states that there is no reason for the feeling. Presumably Mr. Nash, who recently toured the fighting Pacific fronts, ought to know since his country is vitally interested in the outcome of the fighting in this area. And Mr. Nash says the war in the Pacific "is going to take several years" and "we must still do a lot of hard fighting."

Almost plaintively, Cronin refers to the "alliance of 1,000,000,000 people engaged in a war of extermination against the United States," speaking as though this alliance was only a possibility. If Cronin does not know that this alliance of the billion people of East Asia is already a fact, the suppression of news in the United States must indeed be highly successful! No wonder some Americans are still unaware of their appalling losses in recent engagements!

All in all, the impression gained from these statements is that the enemy is becoming increasingly uneasy regarding Japan's growing strength, which is being demonstrated in every encounter with the enemy's forces. When Cronin speaks of "neglecting" the Pacific war, he probably does so tongue in cheek; for recent moves in this theater have been eloquent of American desperation. The United States is doing its best now: only this best is not good enough.

Anglo-U.S. Diplomacy Fails

(From The Tribune, Manila)

Though we are unable to fathom whether it was as a compensation for the delay in the establishment of the second front or in preparation thereof, the diplomatic offensive of the Anglo-Saxons had been pushed with considerable force during the past several months. At first it appeared as if they would achieve considerable success but what really has been the actual result? All reports point not toward success but toward failure.

The first case is relative to Argentina. When Washington, together with London following the lead, forced the Ramirez regime to sever diplomatic relations with the Axis Powers during the later part of January, it appeared as if the American maneuvers to dominate Latin America was advancing smoothly. But America, waxing over-confident, brought additional pressure on Argentina demanding the declaration of war against the Axis Powers.

But this move revealed the shaky foundation on which American diplomacy is based. The Farrell regime's firm stand finally resulted in the recognition issue and the situation is still pregnant with possible complications. If the situation further develops and several South American countries band together against America, what could the Roosevelt government do?

The second case is Turkey. Britain has persistently tried to drag Turkey into the war but so far has been unsuccessful. She even resorted to the embargo of arms shipments to Turkey. Britain had shouted from the housetops that Turkey was her ally, but now their relations are characterized by friction and controversy.

Turkey's contentions are logical. What she wants to know from Britain is: "If she enters the war, who will be the enemy?" If the enemy is Germany, how shall she reconcile the fact that the present Turco-German treaty of amity was signed with the consent of Britain; that Turco-German relations are at present cordial and friendly? In the second place, Turkey wants to know what are the war objectives. She has nothing to gain through entering the war. Furthermore, the Anglo-Turkish alliance is a defensive alliance. Turkey is not obligated to enter the war on the side of Britain. Lastly, there is the question of how to enter the war. It is Turkey's contention that if she declares war against Germany now—when she has received only five per cent of the war materials promised by Britain—she would merely become the helpless target of German bombs.

But Britain growls: "From now on, Turkey must suffer the consequences."

The Turkish leaders well know how much Britain has been a help to her during the past centuries. Every time she received British assistance, the life blood of the Ottoman Empire was sapped and its life shortened. They are fully aware of British perfidy. The case of the abandonment of Poland is not forgotten. Wherever it may be over the wide, wide world, there is no salvation the minute you yield to the British lure.

ON YOUNG DEATH

By MARIO IDE

We can die only once
Of old age or by chance.
And blest is he who dies
In bed or 'neath the skies
Of some far-off strange land
As gallant soul and grand.
So never mind whenever
Death may come or wherever
Your tomb will be. Be gay,
Be happy as the day;
And lie there all content
Be your life but well spent.
What's the worth to be old?
For better far a bold
End to meet while still young,
And dwell in folk's hearts long—
Like cherry-flowers brave
Lauded aye in the grave.

READERS IN COUNCIL

The Burmese Spirit

To the Editor:

The words Burma and Burmese are appearing daily in the newspapers. I sometimes doubt whether people in Japan thoroughly know the Burmese people and things Burmese. Almost all the books written about Burma are by Westerners who know a bit of the outside and nothing of the inside. In an Oriental, it is the spirit that counts. The Burmese spirit is made up of two things—his history and his religion. The precis of the Burmese history runs thus:

In the beginning was nothing and nobody made anything out of this nothing. Yet in this nothingness something was formed by the composition of four natural elements. This something we now call the earth.

To this earth descended four heavenly beings of no sex. They partook of the wonderful food produced from this earth and this made two of them forget the heavenly dwelling whence they came. They remained on this earth. Sooner or later these two were physically changed, one of them became what is known as 'man' and the other 'woman.' Due to the sinful outcome of this change, they lost their natural brightness and all was but darkness. And they began to pray and something bright appeared. This something we call the sun. When this something disappeared, minor bright things appeared. These, we call the moon and stars.

These two heavenly beings reproduced and everybody in this world from the blackest of Negroes to the whitest of Europeans is but the descendant of these two beings. They were the 'Byamas.' (Notice the similarity of this to 'Bama'—the Burmese word for Burma and Burmese.) You can't blame a Burman even if he thinks he is the descendant from heaven. Out of the newly-sprung tribes there came a tribe to the fertile valley of what is called Burma today. A race called 'Thagi'—the race of Kings. This was long before the birth of Buddha, i.e. more than 2500 years ago. They built the city of Tagaung (north of Mandalay). From those times immemorial Kings ruled over the rich, prosperous and unique land of Burma. Old Kings died and new Kings were crowned. All Burmese—the undauntable 'Thagi' race.

We rose, we fought and we conquered—building up the Empire of Burma thrice as big as the present Burma. We expanded to the left and to the right. How our enemies trembled. We were said to be brutes. We were said to be wild. How I love those words 'brutes' and 'wild.' All the time one culture was thriving and the lamp of Buddhism was kept burning as bright as ever. We traded and we prospered.

But, this could not go on forever. Everything has its ups and downs. We fought against the British and in 1886 we fell. Our grief over the loss of our country and our King, defender of the Buddhist faith, was indescribable. But we could take it. Had not Buddha said that all worldly things are not everlasting? So be it. Yet we know that there are things which cannot perish. One can kill a Burman, yet one cannot kill his spirit. It is this Burmese spirit that preserves the Burmese and things Burmese. After almost a hundred years of foreign domination and exploitation Burma retains her religion in its purest form—her literature as shining as ever—her language free from foreign stains—her clothes unaffected, her tradition and culture as Burmese as ever. And what did we do in those hundred odd years of Western exploitation? We kept their prisons full of all classes of political prisoners. We shed our blood and laid down our lives in revolts. What more could a nation of 16 million do?

And there is Buddhism which may be simply defined as the way of Buddha. According to Buddhism, what we are enjoying or suffering now is the result of the good or the bad we did in the previous existences. And on the good and the bad we are doing now the life of our next existence will depend. Human and worldly things are temporary and sinful. These sins will never end until and unless you get to Nirvana, the place where there is no birth, no getting old, no suffering and no death—the nothingness in a sinner's eye. All Buddhists must live a life of love, pity, rejoice and indifference. Press down your wants, anger and personal senses. Every night the last prayer a Buddhist says is for peace on earth and goodwill to men. Yet a Burman fully understands what peace means and to get this peace men sometimes have to fight and he fights.

Saw Hla Pe
SAW HLA PE
State Scholar from Burma

May 9.

Fruits of Wisdom

A vine bears three grapes, the first of pleasure, the second of drunkenness, and the third of repentance. —Anacharsis.

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Every man is valued in this world as he shows by his conduct he wishes to be valued.—Bruyere.

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The heart has reasons that reason do not understand.—Bossuet.